

# Washington State EMERGENCY NEWS/Mitigation & Preparedness



Washington  
Military  
Department  
Emergency  
Management  
Division

Camp Murray  
Washington

[www.emd.wa.gov](http://www.emd.wa.gov)

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## National Preparedness Month and Weather Radio Awareness Month set for September

Camp Murray, Wash. – Washington state will observe National Preparedness Month, 9-1-1 Day, and Weather Radio Awareness Month in September.

Government agencies, businesses, schools and citizens will use National Preparedness Month to review emergency response plans and to participate in the statewide earthquake drill Sept. 14. Washington's emergency response community will highlight the important of 9-1-1 service to our health and safety on Sept. 11. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and the Emergency Management Division of the Washington Military Department are co-sponsors of the campaign to encourage the use of weather radios as a means to immediately receive emergency messages.

**The statewide earthquake drill will occur Sept. 14 between 10:45 a.m. and 11 a.m., and will coincide with a test of the tsunami warning communications system on Washington's Pacific coast.**

The drill will commence with a statewide Emergency Alert System message over radio and television stations about what to do when the ground starts to shake. The message will serve as signal for Washington residents to "drop, cover, and hold" for personal earthquake protection in their residences, schools and workplaces.

A Preparedness Month packet features a new state guide to weather safety and preparedness information, information about the use of 9-1-1 for contacting emergency services including the use of cell phones and the internet, state Department of Health information about protective actions against the spread of flu, a homeland security guide, a CD on the dangers of methamphetamines; and a poster for the statewide earthquake drill on Sept. 14.

For further assistance with disaster planning and to obtain Preparedness Month materials, contact your local emergency management office. A listing of those offices can be found on EMD's website at [www.emd.wa.gov](http://www.emd.wa.gov). Preparedness Month Campaign materials also are available to download from the EMD website.

For further information about the weather radio month, contact Barbara Everett Thurman, EMD public education manager at (253-512-7047 or the National Weather Service forecast offices in Seattle, Spokane, Pendleton or Portland.

For additional information and background on the 9-1-1 Day, contact Penelope Cassidy, E911 program public information officer, at (253) 512-7016.

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